

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJ: SCGC BURTON ISLAND ISIT TO AUSTRALIA

REF A COMDT COGARD WASHDC 211537Z JAN 76

B USDAO CANBERRA 120520Z JAN 76

C MELBOURNE 1532, SEPT 24, 1975

1. SUMMARY: POST STRONGLY URGES DEPT ADVISE
COAST GUARD IN RESPONSE REF A THAT ADDITIONAL PUBLIC
RELATIONS BENEFITS OF USCGC BURTON ISLAND VISIT TO
MELBOURNE AND SHIP'S PARTICIPATION IN MOOMBA FESTIVAL
DURING US BICENTENNIAL YEAR WILL SO MUCH MORE
EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT US FOREIGN POLICY
GOALS IN AUSTRALIA AS TO JUSTIFY REPUTED ADDITIONAL TIME
AND FINAL COSTS. VISIT WILL ALSO HELP REDRESS IMBALANCE
DEVELOPING IN LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS' PROGRAMMING SO MANY
BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN SYDNEY THAT REST OF COUNTRY IS
VIRTUALLY IGNORED WHILE RADICAL LEFTIST PRESS (SUCH AS
"NATION REVIEW") FINDS EASY TARGET FOR ABUSE IN SUCH
HEAVY CONCENTRATION IN ONE CITY. END SUMMARY.

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2. AS DEPT AWARE FROM REFTELS, NO RPT NO US

BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR SYDNEY DURING PROPOSED VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY BURTON ISLAND, WHEREAAS VICTORIA CHAPTER AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION(AAA) WISHES STAGE MAJOR BICENTENNIAL EVENT DURING MELBOURNE'S UNIQUE ANNUAL MOOMBA FESTIVAL WHICH RUNS FEB 26-MAR 8 (REFTEL C). PRESENCE OF BURTON ISLAND DURING FESTIVAL WOULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE IMPACT OF AAA'S EVENT (PROFESSIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT), BUT WOULD IN FACT CONSTITUTE SPLENDID BICENTENNIAL EVENT IN ITSELF. FESTIVAL, WHOSE MULTIPLE EVENTS DRAW ENORMOUS CROWDS IN CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE, WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC RELATIONS USE OF SHIP. US SHIP VISIT ALSO WOULD RECOGNIZE IN HIGHLY VISIBLE FASHION MOOMBA'S LOCAL AND REGIONAL IMPORTANCE AS GREAT POPULAR CULTURAL EVENT, THUS PROVIDING HEFTY BOOST TO MELBOURNIANS' CIVIC PRIDE AND EARNING US CONSIDERABLE CREDIT AMONG CITY AND STATE POPULATION.

3. BURTON ISLAND VISIT TO MELBOURNE WOULD ALSO HELP REDRESS WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS BY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AAA AND AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUSTRALIA(AMCHAM). BOTH THESE GROUPS, CURRENTLY DOMINATED BY SYDNEY-BASED DIRECTORS AND STAFF, APPEAR TO BE LOSING SIGHT OF FACT THAT MOST OF AUSTRALIA LIES OUTSIDE THAT GREAT CITY. TWO ADVERSE EFFECTS FOLLOW FROM THIS: (A) CONCENTRATION OF US BICENENNIAL EVENTS IN SYDNEY HAS VIRTUALLY EXCLUDED MELBOURNE AND OTHER POPULATION CENTERS AND CREATED VERY HARD FEELINGS AMONG BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS IN VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA, THE THREE STATES OF THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT: (B) POSSIBLE "OVERKILL"IN SYDNEY HAS ALREADY DRAWN ATTENTION OF HOSTILE ELEMENTS SUCH AS RADICAL LEFTIST PAPER "NATION REVIEW". (DEC 31-JAN 8 ISSUE HAS REPORT FROM SYDNEY HEADLINED "STAND BY STARS, STRIPES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYCOPHANTS", WHICH BEGINS: "AUSTRALIA, AND SYDNEY IN PARTICULAR, IS TO BE SCENE OF ONE OF MOST LAVISH PROPAGANDA FESTS OF ALL TIME". DESCRIBING EVENTS SCHEDULED IN SYDNEY FOR MARCH 26-APRIL 24, ARTICLE COMMENTS: "CITY WILL BE AWASH WITH STARS AND STRIPS, AND SYCOPHANT AFTER SYCOPHANT WILL PRESUMABLY CRAWL OUT OF WOODWORK TO IMPRESS UPON POPULACE WHAT A GREAT FRIEND WORLD HAS IN UNITED STATES.").

4. BURTON ISLAND VISIT TO MELBOURNE WOULD BE
POSITIVE STEP IN DIRECTION OF BETTER BALANCE IN
BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE IN AUSTRALIA. COINCIDING
WITH MOOMBA FESTIVAL TIME IT WOULD NOT STAND OUT AS
TARGET FOR LEFTIST PROPAGANDA BUT WOULD BE ACCEPTED---
WARMLY WELCOMED---AS FITTING PART OF CIVIC CELEBRATION.

5. FYI: IN ABSENCE INFO ON SHIP'S ITINERARY, UNABLE
ASSESS COAST GUARD'S ESTIMATES OF EXTRA COSTS, BUT IF
SHIP WERE TO COME STRAIGHT HERE AND NOT RPT NOT CALL
AT SYDNEY, WOULD ALL "EXTRA" COSTS REMAIN SAME?
BRAND

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